

## 75 there + be



There was a terrible flood in the UK last summer. There was water everywhere.

### 1 Form

We can use *there + be* in many tenses and forms, eg:

	SINGULAR COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE	PLURAL COUNTABLE
present simple	<i>There's a flood.</i>	<i>There's water everywhere.</i>	<i>There are lots of storms.</i>
past simple	<i>There was a flood.</i>	<i>There was water everywhere</i>	<i>There were lots of storms.</i>

*Look at those dark clouds. There's going to be a storm.*

*Have you heard the news? There's been an accident on the motorway.*

*I think there will be about fifty people at the party.*

We also use the negative of *there + be*:

*There isn't any food in the fridge.*

*There haven't been any good programmes on TV for a long time.*

To form questions, we put *be* before *there*:

*Is there anyone you know here? Yes, there is. / No, there isn't.*



We don't use *there + be* in continuous tenses:

~~✗ There's being a concert in the park this weekend.~~

✓ There's a concert in the park this weekend.



We use *there + is* (a singular verb) with a list of singular nouns:

~~✗ There are a film, a concert and a football match on TV tonight.~~

✓ There's a film, a concert and a football match on TV tonight.

### 2 Use

We use *there + be*

- to say where something is:

*There's a bank in the High Street. There's some salt in that cupboard.*

- to say when something happens:

*There was a robbery in the town last night.*

*There'll be another concert in the village hall on Friday.*

- to show something to someone:

*Look! There's a bird in that tree.*

- to say how many:

*There are three museums in the city. There have been five really bad storms in the last week.*



We need the word *there* in these sentences:

~~✗ Is a strange cat in the garden. ✗ It is a strange cat in the garden.~~

✓ There's a strange cat in the garden.

~~✗ Are three cash machines here. ✗ They are three cash machines here.~~

✓ There are three cash machines here.

## Practice

**GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversation with a form of *there + be*.

A Hello, I'm calling about the advert in the newspaper, for offices.

B Ah, yes, you'd like to rent one of our offices?

A Yes, probably. How many (0) ...*are there*... for rent?

B (1) ..... two offices free at the moment. They're both the same size.

A Oh, good. (2) ..... a kitchen in the building?

B Yes, (3) ..... a kitchen on the ground floor.

A OK. (4) ..... a photocopier and a fax machine?

B Well, (5) ..... three photocopiers, one on each floor, but no fax machine, I'm afraid.

A Mmm. What about transport? (6) ..... a station somewhere near the offices?

B No, (7) ..... But there's a bus stop outside, and the bus goes to the town centre.

A OK, so (8) ..... a car park?

B No, not at the moment, but (9) ..... one soon – we're building one this year.

A Has there been a lot of interest in your advert?

B Yes, (10) ..... over twenty calls.

A OK. Thank you. I'll think about it.

**GRAMMAR IN USE** Choose the correct words in *italics* in the text.

## Future Shock

Some people still say that our weather isn't changing, or that the problem isn't very serious, but there (0) *have* / *has* been a lot of signs of change in the last few years. It seems that every month there (1) *is* / *are* another terrible storm somewhere in the world. In fact, in the last twenty-five years, (2) *it has* / *there have* been twice as many storms as in the twenty-five years before that. (3) *Are* / *There are* also other

problems which should worry us, for example, (4) *there were* / *it was* terrible floods in the United Kingdom in the summer of 2007, which is very unusual. In some places, (5) *it* / *there isn't* enough rain, for example, Australia is usually extremely dry. If we allow these weather changes to continue, (6) *there will be* / *will be* more and more problems of this kind in the future.

Find five more mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

*There is*  
0 Is a really nice beach in the north of the island.

- 1 Are there lots of books for this course?
- 2 Weren't any new students in my class yesterday.
- 3 There are a bank, a post office and a supermarket here.
- 4 There will be a lot of building work in the town next year.
- 5 Are going to be a lot of people at the party?
- 6 Won't be any rice left for tomorrow if we eat it all now.
- 7 There was a Toyota and a Honda in the garage.
- 8 A really bad storm was last year.